

Outbreak Investigation of Cyclospora: Bagged Salads (June 2020)

CDC announces the end of the outbreak; FDA continues its investigation.

The multistate outbreak of *Cyclospora* infections linked to salad products that were made by Fresh Express containing iceberg lettuce, red cabbage, and carrots and that were sold in several regions of the United States investigated by the FDA, along with CDC and state and local partners, is over. The outbreak included Fresh Express branded products as well as products made by Fresh Express for retail store brands sold at ALDI, Giant Eagle, Hy-Vee, Jewel-Osco, ShopRite, and Walmart. FDA's investigation is continuing, in consultation with the state agriculture and regional water board.

Recommendations

On June 27, 2020, Fresh Express recalled products containing either iceberg lettuce, red cabbage or carrots and displaying the product code Z178, or a lower number. The "Best by" date on the products run through July 14, 2020.

The recalled products are now well beyond expiration and likely no longer on the market or in consumers' homes.

Investigation Update

September 25, 2020

As of September 25, 2020, CDC has announced this outbreak is over. FDA's traceback investigation is complete, however the cause or source of the outbreak has not been determined. FDA's investigation is continuing, in consultation with the state agriculture and regional water board.

FDA investigated multiple farms identified in the traceback, one of which led to sampling and investigation around a farm in south Florida. FDA continues to work with the state of Florida and the local water district to try to determine the source and impact of *Cyclospora* that was found in the regional water management canal (C-23), located west of Port St. Lucie, Florida. Given the emerging nature of genetic typing methodologies for this parasite in foods and in environmental samples, the FDA has been unable to determine if the *Cyclospora* detected in the canal is a genetic match to the clinical cases, therefore, there is currently not enough evidence to conclusively determine the source of this outbreak. However, the presence of *Cyclospora* in a canal that had previously supplied irrigation water in the region, and specifically to a farm identified in the traceback, suggests the need for a collaborative effort by state, federal and industry partners to better define the scope of the contamination and identify appropriate risk mitigation measures.

Product Images



Product Recall

On June 27, 2020, Fresh Express recalled products containing either iceberg lettuce, red cabbage or carrots and displaying the product code Z178, or a lower number. The “Best by” date on the products run through July 14, 2020. These products were either branded with the Fresh Express label, or with a number of retail store brand labels. The recalled retail store brands were ALDI Little Salad Bar, Giant Eagle, Hy-Vee, Jewel-Osco Signature Farms, ShopRite Wholesome Pantry, and Walmart Marketside.

The recalled products displaying the product code Z178 or lower were sold in Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The recalled products were made in the Fresh Express production facility in Streamwood, Illinois and have the potential to be contaminated with *Cyclospora*. The recent Fresh Express recall also includes previously recalled store brands

See press releases from the following companies for complete details on the recalled products:

- [Fresh Express](#)
- [Hy-Vee Inc.](#)
- [Little Salad Bar](#)
- [Signature Farms](#)
- [Marketside](#)
- [Hy-Vee](#)